503.38156VX1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: YOSHIOKA, et al.

Filed: February 27, 2002

For: APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING SPECIMENS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
  Washington, D.C. 20231   February 27, 2002

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a List, on

a form substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, of documents to be

considered during examination of the above-identified application.

Each of the listed documents were cited in connection with prior

application Serial No. 09/493,104, filed January 28, 2000, which is being relied

upon under 35 USC 120 in the above-identified application. Accordingly,

copies of the listed documents are not enclosed. See 37 CFR 1.98(d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently

with the filing of the above-identified application. Accordingly, requirements

of 37 CFR 1.97(b) are satisfied.

The listed documents are in Japanese. To satisfy 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), note

discussion of the listed documents on pages 1-5 of the specification of the

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above-identified application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with present submission of the enclosed List. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.38156VX1) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk
Enclosure